

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

September 04, 1981

POLAND: More Strikes in the Offing

*Strikes and strike threats once again seem likely to embroil Solidarity and the government in a test of strength.* [REDACTED]

Solidarity's rejection of the government's offer to provide television coverage of the union's congress increases the prospect of new strikes by printers and possibly radio and television technicians. The union leadership rejected the conditions that the government had attached to its offer--continued censorship and a Solidarity pledge to forgo threatened media strikes. The regime has warned that it cannot allow extensive disruption of the media. Any government effort to operate radio and television stations in the face of a strike could lead to a clash with media technicians. [REDACTED]

The national leadership of Solidarity will probably make a strenuous effort to avoid major strikes until after the first session of its congress ends next Monday. The union may ultimately feel compelled, however, to endorse the strikes, in part because it may believe they cannot be prevented. The strike by printers in Olsztyn continues despite earlier appeals by the national union leadership to end it. Moreover, these workers have persuaded the regional union chapter to threaten a strike alert throughout the province in their support. Printers in Rzeszow also are striking to get their manager fired. [REDACTED]

Other issues that could add to tensions are:

--A strike alert in Bydgoszcz has been called for today to show the local union's anger over the termination of the regime's inconclusive investigation of the beating of union activists last March.

--Miners in Legnica have threatened a strike in mid-September if their demands for improved supplies are not met.

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--The party Central Committee's apparent rejection of key Solidarity demands on greater worker participation in factory management could provoke disputes such as increased efforts by steelworkers in Katowice to oust their factory manager through a referendum. [REDACTED]

Soviet Commentary on Exercise

Moscow appears to be trying to defuse Western and Polish apprehension about the major Soviet military exercise scheduled to start today and end on 12 September. An *Izvestiya* commentary yesterday, alluding to speculation in the West about the coincidence of the Soviet military activity and the crisis in Poland, attacked Western media for propagating "anti-Soviet rumors" and asserted that the exercise has "no special purpose beyond those already announced." [REDACTED]

*Izvestiya* also contended that the exercise will involve only an "extremely limited" number of forces. The 1975 Helsinki Agreement requires that signatory countries cite the number of troops participating in maneuvers when more than 25,000 are involved. Moscow, however, failed to provide these data in its notification to the West of the planned exercise, and it has not responded to subsequent Western efforts to learn the information. As many as 100,000 Soviet troops from the army, navy, and air force could be involved in the overall joint exercise. [REDACTED]